

**MINUTES OF
THE VIRTUAL 93rd CACCI COUNCIL MEETING
October 26, 2021, 03:30pm – 04:30pm, Taipei Time**



1. The 93rd CACCI Council Meeting was held virtually on October 26, 2021, 03:30pm – 04:30pm, Taipei Time, making it the second Council meeting to be held on an online format two years in a row due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Chaired by CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi, the meeting was attended by CACCI officers and representatives from CACCI Primary Members.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

3. In his Opening Remarks, President Modi thanked the participants for attending the 93rd CACCI Council Meeting, noting that the 2021 annual gathering was once again being held in an online format due to the pandemic which has shown little let-up since the last virtual meeting in November last year. He said that their presence showed their continued commitment not only to the Confederation and what it stands for, but also to the global chamber movement, especially during these unprecedented and challenging times.
4. He also took opportunity to thank the attendees for the cooperation they have extended to CACCI and its activities amidst the difficult circumstances. He added that their unwavering support had certainly continued to facilitate the Confederation's efforts to connect members and allow them to communicate

with each other and exchange ideas on how to survive the uncertain market environment and achieve business recovery.

CALL TO ORDER

5. CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin confirmed the presence of a quorum, noting that 19 – or majority - of the 27 Primary Members - were represented in the Meeting. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.
6. With the confirmation of a quorum, Mr. Modi called the Meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE AGENDA

7. The Council, on motion duly seconded, adopted the Tentative Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

8. Mr. Modi requested the Council members to comment on and approve the Minutes of the 92nd CACCI Council Meeting held virtually on November 20, 2020.
9. With no further comments, the Minutes of the previous meeting, on motion duly seconded, was approved by the Council. A copy of the previous minutes is attached as **Annex 2**.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

10. CACCI Director-General Mr. Ernest Lin presented the following highlights of the activities undertaken by CACCI since the 92nd CACCI Council Meeting held in November 2020.

Preparations for the 35th CACCI Conference

11. The CACCI Secretariat coordinated – through regular videoconferences - with key CACCI officers on preparations for the 35th CACCI Conference, which was re-scheduled to November 2, 2021 and in a virtual platform. The re-scheduling followed the decision of the Singapore Business Federation not to hold it on-site in Singapore due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which they expect would continue to restrict international travel.

CACCI Awards

12. The CACCI Secretariat solicited online nominations from CACCI Primary Members and coordinated with the Awards Committees created for the four CACCI Awards, namely, (a) 9th Local Chamber Awards; (b) 8th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award; (c)

3rd Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award; and (d) 4th Hydropower and Clean Energy Excellence Award.

CACCI Study on “Resurrecting the World Trading System”



13. Following the decision made during the 92nd CACCI Council Meeting held in November 2020 on the conduct of the CACCI study on **“Rebuilding the World Trading System”**, the following activities were undertaken:

- a. The preparation of the study was commissioned to Dr. Andrew Stoeckel from the Australian National University.
- b. A Steering Committee was formed to ensure that the study is conducted in an orderly way and the agreed timelines and expectations are met.
- c. CACCI solicited donations from CACCI members to help cover the funding required to conduct the CACCI study.
- d. The Steering Committee requested member chambers to arrange regular webinars to which their respective Trade Ministers – or senior trade officials – would be invited to elaborate on their positions on the future of global trade and the WTO reform necessary to achieve it.
- e. CACCI Officers led by President Samir Modi on May 7, 2021 met with executives of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprises to explore possible areas of collaboration between the two organizations, particularly on WTO reforms.

- f. A Special CACCI Council Meeting was held virtually on July 27, 2021 to review the final draft of the CACCI study
- g. Preparations were made for the Launching of CACCI Study through a webinar to be held on October 29, 2021

CACCI Business and Investment Summit

14. CACCI, in cooperation with the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), Taiwan, the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce, Taiwan (CNAIC), and the Importers & Exporters Association of Taipei (IEAT), jointly conducted the first virtual CACCI Business and Investment Summit on June 4, 2021. CACCI member chambers from Bangladesh, Taiwan and Vietnam were requested to make presentations on the trade and investment opportunities in their respective countries.

Participation in ASEAN-BAC Meetings

15. CACCI was invited to participate in various meetings of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), of which it is an Associate Member of its Joint Business Councils, including the following:

- 5th ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival held on 30 November 2020
- ASEAN Business & Investment Summit held on 13 November 2020.
- 17th JBC Meeting of the ASEAN-BAC held on 2 February 2021
- 18th JBC Meeting of the ASEAN-BAC held on 2 September 2021

CoNGO Activities

16. CACCI was involved in several initiatives of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CoNGO), of which CACCI is a member under the Roster Category. These initiatives included the following:

- Endorsement of CoNGO Statement on NGO Access to the UN
- Membership in CoNGO's Newly-Created NGO Committee on Language & Languages

Activities with the United Nations

17. As a non-governmental organization granted consultative status under the United Nations (UN), CACCI was actively involved in UN-related activities:

- TaiwanICDF Side Event at UN on the adaptation of the SMEs to the post-pandemic world on July 9, 2021
- UN DESA's Call for Submission of Projects in Line with SDGs

Restructuring of YEGAP

18. The CACCI Secretariat organized Zoom meetings of leaders of the Young Entrepreneur Groups in CACCI member-countries to finalize the vision, mission, core values, tag line, theme for 2021-2023, by-laws and activities of CACCI's Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP).

Participation in Activities of CACCI Member Chambers/Countries

19. CACCI participated in several activities organized by CACCI member-chambers, including the following:

- 2020 Taiwan-Philippine Industrial Collaboration Summit and the 26th PCBC-CPBC Joint Meeting Held in Taipei
- Asian Cooperation Dialogues's 1st Virtual Conference Organized by TOBB on 20 January 2021.
- FICCI LEADS 2021, one of FICCI's largest global thought leadership initiative held on September 14-15

Participation in ICC and WCF Activities

20. CACCI was invited to participate in the meetings/activities of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Chambers Federation (WCF), including:

- 1st WCF General Council Meeting for 2021 held on May 18, 2021.
- 2nd WCF General Council Meeting to be held on November 22 in Dubai
- World Chambers Competition Judge
- Meetings with ICC Secretary-General
- Joint Webinar with ICC on Chambers Connect
- ICC WCF Chair's Circle

Joint Webinars

21. CACCI agreed to be a Partner Organization of webinars conducted by its various Knowledge Partners, including:

- Webinar on Incoterms 2020
- Support for Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2021
- ICC Chambers Connect

Various Trade- and Investment- Related Events

22. The CACCI Secretariat participated in various trade and investment related events organized by Taiwan-based organizations, namely:

- Company Visit to Advantech Linkuo Campus in Taiwan
- Global Corporate Sustainability Forum in Taipei
- TAITRA's Tech and Innovation Tour of Southern Taiwan
- Feast in Yingge: 2020 New Taipei Year-End Reception –
- Food Taipei Mega Shows 2020
- TEEMA's 2020 Global Networking Forum
- Smart City Summit and Expo in Taipei
- **Taiwan Fashion Week 2021**
- Taipei AMPA 2021
- Creative Expo Taiwan 2021

CACCI Publications

23. The Secretariat published the latest issues of CACCI Profile, the newsletters of the various CACCI Product and Service Councils, as well as the 2020 Year-End Report summarizing the major activities of CACCI in 2020.

Virtual Meetings of the CACCI Advisory Board and of the Budget Commission

24. The CACCI Advisory Board met virtually on October 26, followed by a meeting of the CACCI Budget Commission, in preparation for the 93rd Council Meeting.

25. With no further comments from the floor, the Director-General's Report, on motion duly seconded, was approved by the Council. The full text of the CACCI Director-General's Report is shown in **Annex 2**.

FINANCIAL REPORT

26. CACCI Director-General Ernest Lin presented highlights of the **audited** Financial Report for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020, as follows

- a. Total receipts for 2020 reached **US\$363,914** compared with **US\$340,601** in 2019. The increase was due to higher contribution from CIECA and higher interest income earned, which offset the slightly lower membership collection as compared with the previous year.

- b. On the other hand, total disbursements last year amounted to **US\$287,270**, down from the **US\$330,321** recorded the year before, mainly because of reduced traveling expenses due to the continuing pandemic.
 - c. As a result, the total balance of receipts over disbursements for the year 2020 amounted to a surplus of **US\$76,644**, significantly higher than the surplus of **US\$10,281** in 2019.
 - d. Consequently, fund balance as of end of December 2020 amounted to **US\$1,481,126**, up from the previous year's figure of **US\$1,404,482**.
27. Mr. Lin further reported that the un-audited Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the period from January 1 to August 31, 2021 shows the following results: Total receipts for the first eight months this year totaled **US\$271,616** while total disbursements for the same period amounted to **US\$268,863**, resulting in an eight-month surplus of **US\$2,752**.
28. With no further comments from the Council, the Financial Reports was noted and declared approved. Copies of the Audited and Un-audited Financial Reports are attached as **Annex 3** and **Annex 4**, respectively.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

29. Mr. Lin informed the Council that since the 34th CACCI Conference held virtually in November 2020, CACCI has admitted one new Lifetime Special Member in the person of Mr. Jashim Uddin, the current President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). Mr. Uddin became a Lifetime Special Member by virtue of the sponsorship of FBCCI – as Gold Sponsor - of the CACCI study on **“Rebuilding the World Trading System.”**
30. On the other hand, notices of membership withdrawals were received from two Primary Members, namely, the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM), and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF). Both chambers cited organizational restructuring as reason for their withdrawals. However, both also promised to consider re-joining in the future as deemed warranted.
31. Mr. Lin took the opportunity to call on other CACCI officers and members to continue helping in CACCI’s membership expansion campaign.

REPORT ON THE CACCI AWARDS

32. Mr. Lin reported that the CACCI Secretariat had requested member chambers to submit online nominations to the four CACCI Awards to be presented this year, namely:

- a. The 9th **Local Chambers Awards** (for both the big-chamber and the small-chamber categories)
- b. The 8th **Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award**
- c. The 3rd **Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award**, and
- d. The 4th **Hydropower and Clean Energy Excellence Award**

33. For the 9th **Local Chamber Awards**, ten online nominations were received from **five** member countries under the Big Chamber Category, and **four** online nominations from **three** member countries for the Small Chamber Category

Big Chamber Category

Bangladesh

- The Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry -
- Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry -

India

- The Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce
- Raniganj Chamber of Commerce

Iran

- Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture
- Urmia Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture

Russia

- Saint Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Union “Lipetsk Chamber of Commerce & Industry”

Turkey

- Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce
- Ankara Chamber of Commerce r

Small Chamber Category

India

- The Indian Salt Manufacturers’ Association -

Iran

- Yasouj Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines

Turkey

- Kayseri Chamber of Commerce
- Aydin Chamber of Commerce

34. For the **8th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award**, **four** nominees were received from **four** member countries, namely:

Bangladesh

- Mr. Salauddin Yousuf, Director (Marketing), Lub-rref (Bangladesh) Limited

Iran

- Mohammad Raza Ashgbousi, Managing Director, Future Elements of Energy

Mongolia

- Regzedmaa Zorigtsaikhan, Founder, Abigail LLC “Iveel Brand”

Russia

- Ms. Yuna Aleksandrovna Nikishkina, General Director, OOO Sputnik

35. For the **3rd Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award**, **sixteen** online nominations were received from **seven** member countries:

Bangladesh

- Kaniz Almas Khan, Managing Director, Persona Hair & Beauty Ltd.
- Dr. Nadia Binte Amin, Managing Director, Research and Computing Services Private Limited (RCS)
- Kamrun Nesa Mlra, Owner, Kites Communications

India

- Mrs. Harjinder Kaur Talwar, Managing Director & CEO, Comvision Group
- Latha Puttanna, Founder, Latha Puttanna
- Mrs. Neha Arora, Managing Director, Alphasan Health Solutions BVBA
- Ms. Ritu Prakash Chhabria, Managing Trustee, Mukul Madhav Foundation and Director, Finolex Industries Limited
- Ms. Lubeina Shahpurwala, Co-Founder, Mustang Socks & Accessories
- Ms. Shiv Dhanya Raipradheep, Creative Director/Founder, the Perfect Story – Weddings & Events

Iran

- Maryam Soltani, Managing Director, Niroo Tejarat Sorena
- Elnaz Entezar, Managing Director, Urum Ada

Mongolia

- Mrs. Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger, CEO, Monolab LLC

Pakistan

- Ms. Syeda Amna Nasir Jamal, CEO, SAN Enterprises

Russia

- Nelly Gavina, Founder and Director, Roza Vetro Ural

Turkey

- Asli Elif Tanugur Samanci, Founder & CEO, SBS Bilimsel Bio Cozumier SanVe TicAS
- Gulin Ikbali, Senyuva Aktug, Founder and Owner, MuzeShop

37. For the **4th Hydropower and Clean Energy Award**, only **two** online nominations were submitted from two member countries, namely:

Iran

- Khatoon Sanat Sarzamin Parsian / Somayeh Akbari

Nepal

- Butwal Power Company Limited

38. Mr. Lin informed the Council that, because of the insufficient number of nominations received for the Hydropower and Clean Energy Award, it was decided to defer the Award presentation to next year.

39. Mr. Lin added that the online nominations for each of the other three Awards were submitted for evaluation to the respective Award Committee created for each Awards category, and that those getting the highest scores under each category would be declared the Award Winners.

40. Mr. Lin then proceeded to announce the winners for each of the Awards, as follows

- For the 9th Local Chamber Awards, Big Chamber Category, the Winner is: **CHITTAGONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** from Bangladesh.
- For the 9th Local Chamber Awards, Small Chamber Category, the Winner is: **AYDIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** from Turkey.
- For the 8th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award, the Winner is: **MS. YUNA ALEJSANDROVNA NIKISHKINA, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF ooo SPUTNIK**, from Russia.
- For 3rd Asia-Pacific Woman Entrepreneur Award, the Winner is: **MS. MUNKHTUVSHIN OYUNDELGER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MONOLAB LLC** from Mongolia.

41. Mr. Lin informed the Council that a trophy and a cash prize of US\$2,000 would be sent to all the winners at an appropriate time.

42. After the report of Mr. Lin on the CACCI Awards, Dr. Pedram Soltani, CACCI Vice President from Iran noted that, for this year's CACCI Awards project, there had been lack of transparency in the procedure and mechanics for selecting the winners. He suggested that the nominees should have been given the opportunity to further present - through Zoom meetings - to the Awards Committee more details and other relevant information about their qualifications and credentials. He therefore proposed that improvements in this regard be instituted and incorporated in future selection process for the Awards.

43. Mr. Ken Court expressed agreement with Dr. Soltani's observations and suggestions, and endorsed their implementation in the next Awards presentation.

44. With no further comments, the Council noted the report of the Secretariat on the CACCI Awards.



REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

45. CACCI Advisory Board Council Chairman Mr. Ken Court reported on the Board's discussions during its virtual meeting held earlier as follows:

- a. The Advisory Board members acknowledged that despite the unusual circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, CACCI managed to undertake activities and implement projects that are important and helped further raise the value of the Confederation not only to its members but also to the business community of the region as a whole.
- b. In particular, Mr. Court referred to the CACCI study on **“Achieving a Successful World Trading System”** that had just been completed since work on it started in early 2021, thanks to the generous sponsorship of a number of CACCI officers and CACCI Primary Members. He said that the study is one of the significant undertakings of CACCI in recent years and has been a major focus of CACCI activities over the past months. He stressed the need for member chambers to present copies of the CACCI study to their respective trade ministers to discuss its recommendations on how to achieve reforms in the WTO and get their support in implementing them.
- c. Mr. Court said that the completion of the study was just the beginning and that the promotion of the results of the study to the widest audience possible and to lobby and have its recommendations adapted will continue to constitute a major part of the activities of CACCI in the next year or so.

46. Mr. Court also reported that the Advisory Board took note of the progress of the following projects that the Council had earlier agreed to provide a grant of US\$5,000 each from the CACCI Foundation:

- a. ***Training Workshops for SMEs/Start-ups on Digital Marketing***, which was proposed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), aimed to train Indian SMEs and start-ups and handhold them to explore several aspects of the new digital marketing environment. FICCI conducted the first virtual training workshop on February 12, followed by a second workshop during the third week of May.
- b. ***Business Continuity Support for COVID-19 Affected SMEs***, which was submitted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), aimed to provide business continuity support for COVID affected SMEs, revive their businesses, and sustain their businesses in the long run. The Centre for SMEs of the Ceylon Chamber conducted the survey in February-March covering 125 SMEs in three districts in Sri Lanka. Based on the survey results, the Centre for SMEs recommended a unified effort to assist SMEs to revive businesses.
- c. ***Revitalization of the Kavieng Club***, which was submitted by the New Ireland Chamber of Commerce (an affiliate member of the PNGCCI), aimed to revitalize the Kavieng Club, thereby offering employment and stimulating the local economy. The CACCI Secretariat notified the project proponent on the CACCI Council's decision to provide a grant from the CACCI Foundation to the proposed project. In the end, however, no response was received from the proponent, despite various follow-ups from the Secretariat.

47. Lastly, Mr. Court said that, after many years of involvement in CACCI in various capacities, with the current one being Chairman of the Advisory Board, he said he plans to retire from actively participating in the Confederation next year, adding that there is therefore a need to have someone replace him as Advisory Board Chairman. He proposed that Ambassador Benedict Yujuico, being the most senior among the Advisory Board members, assume this role.

48. Ambassador Yujuico said he would be pleased and honored to accept the offer of Mr. Court, as he remains committed to CACCI and believes in its goals and objectives. However, he added that he hopes to receive continued guidance from Mr. Court, given his long years of experience with CACCI.

49. The Council endorsed Mr. Court's proposal, and thanked him for his dedicated and outstanding service to CACCI over the years. They also expressed their appreciation to Ambassador Yujuico for agreeing to take over the chairmanship of the Advisory Board.

ELECTION OF CACCI OFFICERS

50. Mr. Ken Court reported that the Advisory Board had agreed to recommend to the CACCI Council to extend the term of the incumbent officers for another year until the next CACCI Conference in 2022, not only because the COVID situation has not yet significantly improved, but also because the incumbent President Mr. Samir Modi and CACCI Vice President Mr. Peter McMullin, who have been actively involved in the preparation of the CACCI study, would be in the best position to carry on the work of promoting the study in the next year or so.

51. After confirming that the extension will be for only one year until 2022 – which would make the incumbent President and other officers complete four years in their respective positions – and that an election will be held in 2022 for another set of officers who will serve for another two-year term, the CACCI Council endorsed the Advisory Board's proposal to extend the term of the incumbent officers for another year until 2022.

BRIEFING ON THE PROGRAM OF THE 35TH CACCI CONFERENCE

52. Director-General Ernest Lin briefed the Council on the program of the 35th CACCI Conference to be held virtually on November 2, as follows:

- a. Focusing on the theme **“Sustainable and Resilient Growth Through a Robust World Trade”** and to be moderated by CACCI Vice President Mr. Peter McMullin, the Conference starts with a Welcome Remarks of CACCI President Mr. Samir Modi.
- b. Thereafter, Dr. Chen Chien-Jen, Former Vice President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and currently Academician of Academia Sinica (Taiwan) and Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (Vatican), will make a presentation on **“Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic.”**
- c. Dr. Chen will be followed by Ms. Priyanka Kishore, Head of India and South East Asia Macro Services at Oxford Economics, who will share her views on **“Achieving Growth Amidst Disruptions in a Changing Global Environment.”**
- d. Dr. Oriol Caudevilla, FinTech Advisor and Management and Strategy Consultant, will thereafter speak on **“Digital Currencies: Revolutionizing Business and Global Trading System.”**
- e. A 15-minute Q&A session will then be conducted.

- f. This will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Andy Stoeckel on the results of the CACCI Study on ***“Rebuilding the World Trading System”***
- g. Dr. Stoeckel’s presentation will be followed by a session with WTO Deputy Director-General Ms. Angela Ellard, who will speak on ***“Making the WTO More Adaptable to the Economic and Trade Realities of Today.”***
- h. A 15-minute Q&A session will then take place.
- i. The Moderator Mr. McMullin will close the Conference with a wrap-up and some Concluding Remarks.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

53. The meeting took note of the following comments from some CACCI officers and Council members;

- a. Regarding the CACCI study on ***“Rebuilding the World Trading System,”*** Ambassador Yujuico pointed out that CACCI should also take extra efforts to play a role in resolving trade issues and related conflicts that may arise between and among CACCI member-countries. He gave as an example the unresolved issue of Philippine mango exports to Taiwan. In response, Mr. Court reminded the Council on his earlier suggestion to make these conflicts known to the trade officials of member countries concerned so that these can be brought into the table during the upcoming 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in late November in Geneva.
- b. Ambassador Yujuico further added that CACCI should also reach out to chambers of commerce in other Asian countries, such as the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) which he said has been quite active in approaching the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) with proposals on joint programs between the two organization. He offered to introduce to CACCI some of the key officers in CCC for CACCI to approach. In addition, CACCI may also consider touching base with the Pacific Alliance, which he said has been showing a growing interest in reaching out to the Asian markets through the chambers of commerce in the region. CACCI can initiate linking up with them, he added.
- c. Dr. Pedram Soltani concurred with Ambassador Yujuico, and suggested that CACCI can play the role as a single umbrella for all chambers of commerce in the region and take the lead in cooperating with and lobbying for non-member countries of CACCI. Efforts should be made to increase the number

of CACCI Primary Members to offset the withdrawal of NCCIM (Malaysia) and SBF (Singapore).

- d. Dr. Soltani also suggested giving more responsibilities to the various CACCI Vice Presidents to assume special roles in this regard, such as in the campaign for membership expansion.
- e. Mr. Peter McMullin stressed the need for inviting other member-chambers to join the efforts in promoting the CACCI study on **“Achieving a Successful World Trading System”** to trade ministers in and outside the region and help drive home CACCI’s recommendations outlined in the study.

ADJOURNMENT

54. With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Modi reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the Council members for attending the virtual 93rd CACCI Council Meeting. For their part, the Council members congratulated Mr. Samir Modi for successfully chairing the meeting and for the productive discussions, and reiterated their continued support for him as he begins his extended term of one year. With no other matters to take up, Mr. Modi adjourned the meeting at 16:30 hrs.